



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

October 15, 2007

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 05-024-AFS

Joe Meade, Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest
3301 C Street, Suite 300,
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Meade:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Kenai Winter Access Project (CEQ No. 20070381). The review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA's written comments on the original Draft EIS (June, 2006) included a rating of LO (Lack of Objections). We made recommendations for things we felt would improve the document, including descriptions of existing environmental conditions, additional detail regarding mitigation measures and best management practices that would be implemented and monitored to avoid adverse impacts to soil, water, riparian and wetlands habitats, and a suggestion that conclusions about cumulative effects may need some revision in the absence of monitoring information. The Forest Service subsequently published a Draft SEIS in October, 2006 with a modified preferred alternative to address concerns raised in public comment. EPA also rated this document LO.

Based on our review of the final EIS, we commend the Forest Service for a thorough and thoughtful analysis and effectively engaging interested and affected parties, responding to their concerns by modifying the preferred alternative. The document satisfactorily addresses EPA's comments. Therefore, EPA has no objections to the action as proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this final EIS. If you have questions or comments, please contact Fatima Bukhari at (907) 271-1481 or by electronic mail at bukhari.fatima@epa.gov or myself at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

/s/
Christine Reichgott, Manager